



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 263**

January Session, 2007

\* SB00263PH\_APP032607 \*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR  
HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS PURSUING  
CAREERS IN NURSING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) On or before July 1, 2008,  
2 the Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of  
3 Governors of Higher Education, shall establish a program for the  
4 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to students of racial or  
5 ethnic minority groups who are pursuing a degree leading to licensure  
6 as a registered nurse. The loans shall be forgiven if the student  
7 practices as a registered nurse in Connecticut for five years.  
8 Participants in the loan forgiveness program shall have loans that  
9 qualify for forgiveness under the program forgiven based upon the  
10 following schedule: (1) Ten per cent forgiveness of the total amount  
11 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of  
12 one year's service pursuant to the program; (2) twenty-five per cent  
13 forgiveness of the total borrowed and qualified for under the program  
14 upon the completion of two years' service pursuant to the program; (3)  
15 forty-five per cent forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and  
16 qualified for under the program upon the completion of three years'  
17 service pursuant to the program; (4) seventy per cent forgiveness of the  
18 total amount borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the  
19 completion of four years' service pursuant to the program; and (5) one

20 hundred per cent forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and  
 21 qualified for under the program upon the completion of five years'  
 22 service pursuant to the program. Annually, the Department of Public  
 23 Health shall permit not more than fifteen students to participate in the  
 24 program. Not later than July 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Public  
 25 Health, in consultation with the Board of Governors of Higher  
 26 Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions  
 27 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish procedures to  
 28 administer the program.

29 (b) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the  
 30 Department of Higher Education, shall advertise the loan forgiveness  
 31 program established under this section in such manner as the  
 32 Department of Public Health determines will most effectively attract a  
 33 greater number of racial and ethnic minorities to pursue a degree  
 34 leading to licensure as a registered nurse.

35 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is  
 36 appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the General  
 37 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the loan forgiveness  
 38 program authorized under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

**PH***Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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